

**Figure 1 GARDEN STATE PRESERVATION TRUST
MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the statutory mission of the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) to guide New Jersey's efforts to protect 1 million additional acres of open space and farmland. The Trust is also charged with reviewing and recommending to the Legislature and the Governor preservation projects submitted to it by the Office of Green Acres, the State Agriculture Development Committee, and the New Jersey Historic Trust, and with taking actions necessary to provide project funding and financing.

Oversight of the goal of preserving an additional 1 million acres, beyond that already preserved in the State as of May 1997, requires not only an accounting of the acreage being preserved, but also the monitoring of progress toward achieving specific policy objectives for open space and farmland preservation. These policy objectives include the protection of the State's water supplies, preservation of the State's agricultural land base, protection of contiguous and diverse wildlife habitats and greenways, and provision of a broad array of recreational opportunities for all New Jerseyans in all regions of the State. With regard to historic preservation, the GSPT will fund historic preservation projects throughout the State so that New Jersey's historic past continues to play an integral role in its future, whether for educational, economic development, and/or aesthetic purposes. The GSPT will provide policymakers with recommendations it deems appropriate for optimal achievement of these goals, which, when realized, will represent a major step forward in New Jersey's long range commitment to economic and environmental sustainability.

In order to ensure that the economic and environmental benefits of open space, farmland, and historic resource preservation are widely recognized and understood, the GSPT will provide educational services to local and county governments, nonprofit organizations, landowners, and the general public.

Beyond working with local governments and organizations within New Jersey, the GSPT will seek cooperation with neighboring states in preserving ecosystems that transcend state borders, together with historic trails that encompass several states.

The GSPT will explore opportunities to leverage preservation funds in order to ensure that New Jersey is able to best meet its overall land and historic preservation goals. On behalf of the State, the GSPT will advocate for federal funding for open space, farmland and historic resource preservation. Likewise, the GSPT will provide recommendations to State and federal lawmakers on how the strengthening of federal and State tax and other incentives for preservation can play an important role in achieving New Jersey's preservation goals. Finally, the GSPT will work with private foundations, environmental organizations, and those donating lands, to maximize the use of private dollars in its preservation efforts.